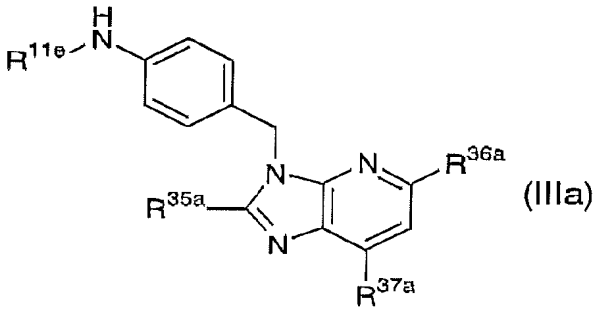
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The following listing of claims replaces all prior listings, and all prior versions, of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1.-76. (Cancelled).

77. (Currently amended) A bicyclic heterocyclic compound represented by formula (IIIa):



(IIIa)

[wherein R^{11e} represents substituted or unsubstituted lower cycloalkyl, substituted or unsubstituted aryl, a substituted or unsubstituted aliphatic heterocyclic group, substituted or unsubstituted lower cycloalkylcarbonyl, ~~substituted or unsubstituted aroyl, substituted or unsubstituted aromatic heterocyclic carbonyl (wherein an aromatic heterocyclic moiety of the aromatic heterocyclic carbonyl is not tetrazolyl), substituted or unsubstituted aryloxycarboyl,~~ $-C(=O)NHR^{15d}$ (wherein R^{15d} represents substituted or unsubstituted cycloalkyl, or substituted or unsubstituted aryl), or $-S(O)_2R^{17a}$ (wherein R^{17a} represents substituted or unsubstituted aryl) and R^{35a}, R^{36a}, and R^{37a} are the same or different and each represents a hydrogen atom, or substituted or unsubstituted lower alkyl] or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

78. (Previously presented) The bicyclic heterocyclic compound or the pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof according to claim 77, wherein R^{11e} is substituted or unsubstituted lower cycloalkyl.

79. (Withdrawn) The bicyclic heterocyclic compound or the pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof according to claim 77, wherein R^{11e} is a substituted or unsubstituted aliphatic heterocyclic group.

80. (Previously presented) The bicyclic heterocyclic compound or the pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof according to claim 77, wherein R^{11e} is substituted or unsubstituted cyclohexyl.

81. (Previously presented) The bicyclic heterocyclic compound or the pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof according to claim 80, wherein R^{35a}, R^{36a}, and R^{37a} are the same or different and each is lower alkyl.

82. (Previously presented) The bicyclic heterocyclic compound or the pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof according to claim 80, wherein R^{35a}, R^{36a}, and R^{37a} are methyl.

83. (Withdrawn) The bicyclic heterocyclic compound or the pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof according to claim 79, wherein R^{35a}, R^{36a}, and R^{37a} are the same or different and each is lower alkyl.

84. (Withdrawn) The bicyclic heterocyclic compound or the pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof according to claim 79, wherein R^{35a}, R^{36a}, and R^{37a} are methyl.

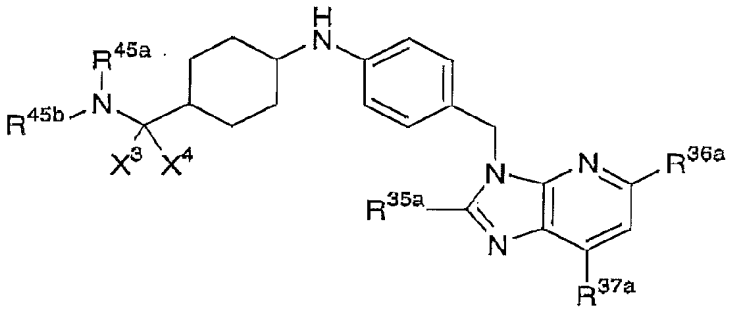
85. (Previously presented) The bicyclic heterocyclic compound or the pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof according to claim 78, wherein R^{35a}, R^{36a}, and R^{37a} are the same or different and each is lower alkyl.

86. (Previously presented) The bicyclic heterocyclic compound or the pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof according to claim 78, wherein R^{35a}, R^{36a}, and R^{37a} are methyl.

87. (Previously presented) The bicyclic heterocyclic compound or the pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof according to claim 77, wherein R^{35a}, R^{36a}, and R^{37a} are the same or different and each is lower alkyl.

88. (Previously presented) The bicyclic heterocyclic compound or the pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof according to claim 77, wherein R^{35a}, R^{36a}, and R^{37a} are methyl.

89. (Previously presented) A bicyclic heterocyclic compound represented by formula (IIIb):



(IIIb)

(wherein X^3 and X^4 represent hydrogen atoms or X^3 and X^4 are combined together to represent an oxygen atom, R^{45a} and R^{45b} are the same or different and each represents a hydrogen atom or substituted or unsubstituted lower alkyl, or R^{45a} and R^{45b} are combined together with the adjacent nitrogen atom thereto to form a substituted or unsubstituted aliphatic heterocyclic group, and R^{35a}, R^{36a}, and R^{37a} are the same or different and each represents lower alkyl) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

90. (Previously presented) The bicyclic heterocyclic compound or the pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof according to claim 89, wherein X^3 and X^4 are combined together to represent an oxygen atom.

91. (Previously presented) The bicyclic heterocyclic compound or the pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof according to claim 89, wherein X^3 and X^4 are hydrogen atoms.

92. (Previously presented) The bicyclic heterocyclic compound or the pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof according to claim 89, wherein R^{45a} is a hydrogen atom and R^{45b} is substituted or unsubstituted lower alkyl.

93. (Previously presented) The bicyclic heterocyclic compound or the pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof according to claim 89, wherein R^{45a} is a hydrogen atom and R^{45b} is lower alkyl substituted by aliphatic heterocyclic group.

94. (Currently amended) The bicyclic heterocyclic compound or the pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof according to claim 89, wherein R^{45a} is a hydrogen atom and R^{45b} is ethyl substituted by aliphatic heterocyclic group.[[.]]

95. (Previously presented) The bicyclic heterocyclic compound or the pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof according to claim 89, wherein R^{45a} and R^{45b} are combined together with the adjacent nitrogen atom thereto to form a substituted or unsubstituted aliphatic heterocyclic group.